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THE TIMES

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VOL. IV. WALTER D. BELL, EDITOR.

ELKIN, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1896.

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PAGANS AND PRAYERS

SOME ODD OBSERVANCES STILL PRACTICED.

Praying by Machinery—Prayer by Water Power—How the Chinese Cheat the Devil—Why the American Indians Placed Their Dead on Poles.

Queer Religious Rites.

With the possible exception of the Bushman, who is believed to be first cousin to the Missing Link, if, indeed, there is not a nearer relationship, all nations have some form of religion and ceremonial observances peculiar to its exercise. Among civilized nations, religious ceremonies are suggestive in character and symbolic in origin, but as we go down in the scale of human nature there are found many peculiarities of religious observance which are strange, incomprehensible, and, not infrequently, in the highest degree absurd. To us, at least, they seem so, the fact arising partly from our inability to comprehend any intelligible meaning they may have for those who practice them, and partly from the enormous difference between our intelligence and that of the people who use these unorthodox rites. But it is exceedingly interesting to follow the fact arising partly from our inability to comprehend any intelligible meaning they may have for those who practice them, and partly from the enormous difference between our intelligence and that of the people who use these unorthodox rites. But it is exceedingly interesting to follow the fact arising partly from our inability to comprehend any intelligible meaning they may have for those who practice them, and partly from the enormous difference between our intelligence and that of the people who use these unorthodox rites.

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MOHAIK IS POPULAR AGAIN.

Fashion Has Again Taken It Up After a Long Period of Neglect.

The angora goat has leaped into popularity again. Its wool, known commercially as mohair, has come into fashion once more after a long period of neglect. Within the last few months it has risen in price to such an extent that immense fortunes have been made by it. One firm of manufacturers is said to have cleared \$5,000,000 in less than half a year. The price of the raw material has gone up more than 165 per cent. Anybody who happened to have a large quantity in stock was as good as a millionaire.

THE HOUSE.

NATURDAY.

The House Saturday, in committee of the whole, continued its consideration of the proposed appropriation bill for copies of patent specifications; to print 20,000 copies of the book on agriculture by the Department of Agriculture.

SUNDAY.

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MONDAY.

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AT THE GATE OF THE CHINESE TEMPLE.



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They are like the Chinese idea of the Fung Shway; that is, the eternal balance of things. When a Chinaman builds a house, he must also be built in the opposite corner to restore the Fung Shway; when one chimney or tower is erected on a building, there must be another on the opposite side, to preserve the Fung Shway; when a plate of rice is placed on one side of a table, another must be opposite that the Fung Shway be not disturbed. The Celestial does not care anything about the fact that everybody else believes that the Fung Shway ought not to be disturbed being quite enough for his purpose. He has another idea that, to our minds, seems ludicrously absurd. At the gates of the temples in which he worships there hang bells and when a visitor to the temple enters, he must say his prayers, or make offerings to his gods to insure good luck in any enterprise in which he may be engaged, he goes to the parish temple and before entering gives the bell at the gate a tap to let the deity of the place understand that a worshiper is at hand and desirous of attending to business. Nothing to our minds, could be more exquisite absurd than this method of signifying to deity a desire to pay reverence, yet to the Chinaman it is fit and proper, and he devoutly believes that unless this preliminary were performed, his prayers and sacrifices would be wasted for the lack of god to hear and receive them. The idea has its origin in an ancient way very similar to our own, of bells for notifying worshippers of the proper time for service, but of this fact the Chinaman of the present day knows nothing; he rings the bell because everybody else does and because the greater the number the better, and because he can remember, the bell has been rung for this purpose, and that is quite enough.

PRAYER WHEELS IN THIBET.

near the residence of the defunct Celestial for the purpose of carrying off his soul. Just before the departure of the funeral cortege from the house a considerable quantity of fireworks is set off in front of the residence, together with a peculiar variety of smoky pyrotechnics, and under cover of the smoke thus made the bier is raised and the carriers leave the house in a smart trot. They go up the street a short distance, then suddenly turn into a cross street or alley and at a yell and yell the bier is raised and the carriers leave the house in a smart trot. They go up the street a short distance, then suddenly turn into a cross street or alley and at a yell and yell the bier is raised and the carriers leave the house in a smart trot.

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